

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

BIG LOTS, INC., *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)

(Jointly Administered)

Objection Deadline:

December 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)

**FIRST MONTHLY FEE STATEMENT OF MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT &
TUNNELL LLP, AS BANKRUPTCY CO-COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTORS AND
DEBTORS IN POSSESSION, FOR ALLOWANCE OF MONTHLY
COMPENSATION AND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ALL ACTUAL AND
NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, THROUGH AND INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Name of Professional: MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL LLP

Authorized to Provide
Professional Services to: Debtors and Debtors in Possession

Date of Retention: October 22, 2024, *nunc pro tunc* to September 9,
2024

Period for which compensation and
reimbursement is sought: September 9, 2024, through September 30, 2024

Amount of compensation sought as
actual, reasonable and necessary: \$382,407.20 (80% of \$478,009.00)

Amount of reimbursement sought as
actual, reasonable and necessary: \$48,690.26

This is a x monthly interim final application

¹ The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors' corporate headquarters is 4900 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

The total time expended for preparation of this fee statement is approximately 15 hours and the corresponding compensation requested is approximately \$12,075.00.²

If this is not the first fee statement filed, disclose the following for each prior fee statement:

DATE FILED	PERIOD COVERED	REQUESTED FEES/EXPENSES	APPROVED FEES/EXPENSES
NA	NA	NA	NA

² Allowance for compensation for such time is not requested in this application, but may be sought in a subsequent fee statement.

COMPENSATION BY PROFESSIONAL**BIG LOTS, INC., et al.
(Case No. 24-11967 (JKS))****September 9, 2024, through September 30, 2024**

Name of Professional	Position of the Applicant, Area of Expertise, Number of Years in that Position, Year of Obtaining License to Practice	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Billed Hours	Total Compensation
Robert J. Dehney	Partner/Bankruptcy. Partner since 1999. Joined firm as an associate in 1996. Member of the DE Bar since 1997.	1,695	15.8	26,781.00
Andrew R. Remming	Partner/Bankruptcy. Partner since 2016. Joined firm as an associate in 2008. Member of the DE Bar since 2008.	1,145	77.3	88,508.50
Matthew B. Harvey	Partner/Bankruptcy. Partner since 2020. Joined firm as associate from 2008 to Sept. 2013; rejoined the firm as an associate in Nov. 2014. Member of the DE Bar since 2008.	1,145	0.1	114.50
Daniel B. Butz	Senior Counsel/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as an associate in 2002. Member of the DE Bar since 2002.	1,075	104.6	112,445.00
Tamara K. Mann	Special Counsel/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as an associate in 2011. Member of the DE Bar since 2011.	965	35.5	34,257.50
Matthew O. Talmo	Associate/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as an associate in 2016. Member of the DE Bar since 2016.	810	0.3	243.00
Sophie Rogers Churchill	Associate/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as an associate in 2021. Member of the DE Bar since 2022.	635	154.6	98,171.00
Austin Park	Associate/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as an associate in 2023. Member of the DE Bar since 2023.	545	7.9	4,305.50
Casey B. Sawyer	Associate/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as an associate in 2023. Member of the DE Bar since 2023.	545	141.8	77,281.00
Brianna N. V. Turner	Associate/Bankruptcy. Joined the firm as a law clerk in 2024.	545	46.4	25,288.00
John Lawrence	Paralegal	395	0.1	39.50
Rebecca L. Weidman	Paralegal	395	20.3	8,018.50

Name of Professional	Position of the Applicant, Area of Expertise, Number of Years in that Position, Year of Obtaining License	Hourly Billing Rate	Total Billed Hours	Total Compensation
Marie Reed	Legal Assistant	355	7.2	2,556.00
Total			611.9	\$478,009.00
BLENDED RATE: \$781.19				
ATTORNEY BLENDED RATE: \$799.92				

COMPENSATION BY PROJECT CATEGORY**BIG LOTS, INC., et al.****(Case No. 24-11967 (JKS))****September 9, 2024, through September 30, 2024**

Project Category	Total Hours	Total Fees
Case Administration	2.60	1,267.00
Asset Dispositions/363 Sales	130.20	105,859.00
Automatic Stay Matters	6.00	4,126.00
Creditor Communications and Meetings	20.60	14,552.00
Fee Applications (Others - Filing)	0.20	118.00
Executory Contracts/Unexpired Leases	79.70	65,821.00
Other Contested Matters	61.20	54,184.00
Governmental/Regulatory Matters	1.00	863.00
Employee Matters	6.90	6,616.50
Financing Matters/Cash Collateral	9.30	5,915.50
Tax Matters	1.10	965.50
Real Estate Matters	0.80	542.00
Insurance Matters	2.70	2,241.50
Reclamation/503(b)(9) Matters	0.90	762.50
Utility Matters	14.90	11,922.50
Vendor/Supplier Matters	6.90	6,818.50
Court Hearings	122.00	97,328.00
Claims Objections and Administration	2.00	1,713.00
Litigation/Adversary Proceedings	0.70	729.50
Professional Retention (MNAT - Filing)	19.50	12,468.50
Professional Retention (MNAT - Objections)	0.70	444.50
Professional Retention (Others - Filing)	44.30	29,390.50
Professional Retention (Others - Objections)	0.50	368.50
General Corporate Matters (including Corporate Governance)	1.00	1,145.00
General Case Strategy	50.90	33,010.50
Schedules/SOFA/U.S. Trustee Reports	25.30	18,836.50
TOTAL	611.90	\$478,009.00

EXPENSE SUMMARY

BIG LOTS, INC., et al.
(Case No. 24-11967 (JKS))

September 9, 2024, through September 30, 2024

Expense Category	Total Expenses
In-House Printing - black & white	1,095.20
Pacer	479.00
In-House Printing - color	2,418.40
Secretarial Overtime	48.35
In-House Duplicating	18.42
Computer Research - Westlaw	861.40
Supplemental Tech Trial Support Services	236.74
Use of Facilities/Equipment	1,325.00
Courier/Delivery Service	449.00
Court Costs	33,919.00
Transcripts	3,763.26
Conference Calls	22.74
Meals	955.38
Photos/Art/Spec Duplicating-Out of Office	2,707.68
In-House Duplicating - color	116.34
Support Staff Overtime	274.35
Grand Total Expenses	\$48,690.26

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FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

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December 17, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)

**FIRST MONTHLY FEE STATEMENT OF MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT &
TUNNELL LLP, AS BANKRUPTCY CO-COUNSEL FOR THE DEBTORS AND
DEBTORS IN POSSESSION, FOR ALLOWANCE OF MONTHLY
COMPENSATION AND FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ALL ACTUAL AND
NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, THROUGH AND INCLUDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP ("Morris Nichols"), as bankruptcy co-counsel for the debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned cases (the "Debtors"), submits this fee statement (the "Fee Statement") for monthly and interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered by Morris Nichols to the Debtors for the period of September 9, 2024, through September 30, 2024 (the "Statement Period"), and reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by Morris Nichols during the Statement Period pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), Rule 2016-2 of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Local Rules"), the

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United States Trustee's Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases, effective November 1, 2013 (the "U.S. Trustee Guidelines") and the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Retained Professionals* (D.I. 519) (the "Interim Compensation Procedures Order").² In support of this Fee Statement, Morris Nichols represents as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this Fee Statement pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). Venue in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

2. The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, as supplemented by Bankruptcy Rule 2016, Local Rule 2016-2, the U.S. Trustee Guidelines, and the Interim Compensation Procedures Order.

BACKGROUND

3. On September 9, 2024 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code thereby commencing these chapter 11 cases. The Debtors continue to operate their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. On September 23, 2024, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the "U.S. Trustee") appointed an Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Creditors' Committee").

² Capitalized terms used but not defined herein are defined in the Interim Compensation Procedures Order.

MORRIS NICHOLS'S RETENTION

5. Prior to the commencement of these chapter 11 cases, the Debtors retained Morris Nichols to provide advice regarding, among other things, preparing for, commencing, and prosecuting these cases under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. On September 18, 2024, the Debtors filed the *Debtors' Application for Entry of an Order Authorizing Retention and Employment of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP as Bankruptcy Co-Counsel for the Debtors Nunc Pro Tunc to the Petition Date* (D.I. 211) (the "Morris Nichols Retention Application").

6. On October 22, 2024, this Court granted the Morris Nichols Retention Application pursuant to the *Order Authorizing the Retention and Employment of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP as Bankruptcy Co-Counsel for the Debtors Nunc Pro Tunc to the Petition Date* (D.I. 587) (the "Morris Nichols Retention Order").

INTERIM COMPENSATION PROCEDURES ORDER

7. The Court entered the Interim Compensation Procedures Order on October 17, 2024. The Interim Compensation Procedures Order sets forth the procedures for interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses for all retained Professionals in these cases.

8. In particular, the Interim Compensation Procedures Order provides that Professionals may file and serve a Monthly Fee Statement following the month or months for which compensation is sought, for interim approval and allowance of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred during the immediately preceding month. Parties in interest will have 21 days (or the next business day if such day is not a business day) after the filing of a Monthly Fee Statement (the "Objection Deadline") to object to the requested compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses incurred. Provided that there are no objections to such Monthly Fee Statement filed before the expiration of the Objection Deadline, the Professional may file a certificate of no objection (the "Certificate of No Objection")

with the Court.

9. Upon the filing of a Certificate of No Objection, the Debtors are authorized to pay such Professional 80 percent of the fees and 100 percent of the expenses requested in such Monthly Fee Statement.

RELIEF REQUESTED

10. Morris Nichols submits this Fee Statement for (a) allowance of reasonable compensation for the actual, reasonable, and necessary professional services that it has rendered as co-counsel for the Debtors in these cases during the Statement Period and (b) reimbursement of actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred by Morris Nichols in representing the Debtors during the Statement Period.

11. During the Statement Period, Morris Nichols incurred fees in the amount of \$478,009.00. For the same period, Morris Nichols incurred actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses totaling \$48,690.26. As of the date of this Fee Statement, Morris Nichols has received no payments with respect to these amounts.

12. Set forth on the foregoing “Compensation by Project Category” is a summary, by subject matter category, of the time expended by Morris Nichols’s timekeepers billing time to the Debtors’ cases during the Statement Period.

13. **Exhibit A** attached hereto contains logs, sorted by case project category, which show the time recorded by professionals, paraprofessionals, and other support staff, as well as descriptions of the services provided.

14. **Exhibit B** attached hereto contains a breakdown of actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred by Morris Nichols during the Statement Period.

15. Morris Nichols charges \$.10 per page for photocopying and printing. Morris Nichols does not charge for outgoing domestic facsimiles or incoming facsimiles.

16. In accordance with Local Rule 2016-2, Morris Nichols has reduced its request for compensation for non-working travel, if any, to 50% of its normal rate.

17. Morris Nichols has endeavored to represent the Debtors in the most expeditious and economical manner possible. Tasks have been assigned to attorneys, paralegals, and other support staff at Morris Nichols so that work has been performed by those most familiar with the particular matter or task and, where attorney or paralegal involvement was required, by the lowest hourly rate professional appropriate for a particular matter. Moreover, Morris Nichols has endeavored to coordinate with the other professionals involved in these cases so as to minimize any duplication of effort and to minimize attorneys' fees and expenses to the Debtors. Morris Nichols believes it has been successful in this regard.

18. No agreement or understanding exists between Morris Nichols and any other person for the sharing of compensation received or to be received for services rendered in or in connection with these cases.

19. The undersigned has reviewed the requirements of Local Rule 2016-2 and certifies to the best of his or her information, knowledge, and belief that this Fee Statement complies with that Rule.

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WHEREFORE, Morris Nichols respectfully requests that the Debtors pay Morris Nichols \$431,097.46, which is equal to the sum of 80% (\$382,407.20) of Morris Nichols's requested compensation (\$478,009.00) and 100% (\$48,690.26) of Morris Nichols's requested expense reimbursement.

Dated: November 26, 2024
Wilmington, Delaware

MORRIS, NICHOLS, ARSHT & TUNNELL LLP

/s/ Sophie Rogers Churchill
Robert J. Dehney, Sr. (No. 3578)
Andrew R. Remming (No. 5120)
Tamara K. Mann (No. 5643)
Sophie Rogers Churchill (No. 6905)
Casey B. Sawyer (No. 7260)
1201 N. Market Street, 16th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801
Tel: (302) 658-9200
rdehney@morrisnichols.com
aremming@morrisnichols.com
tmann@morrisnichols.com
srchurchill@morrisnichols.com
csawyer@morrisnichols.com

Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession